

# The Labour Organiser

No. 192

JUNE, 1937

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## ROMFORD

### HOW THEY GOT OVER 7,000 MEMBERS

I was asked by Comrade Drinkwater how we obtained our large membership.

I can say in a few words the *only* way to build up a large membership is by house-to-house canvass and following up section canvass returns. The great job is not making new members ; keeping them is the hardest task.

The Romford division is the largest, or shall I say, with Hendon, one of the two largest constituencies in the country. We are approaching an electorate of 190,000, and the rate of increase is not slowing down as in some areas. We have two Borough Councils, Barking and Romford, and two Urban District Councils, Dagenham and Hornchurch, in the area. The area of the division must be nearly 100 square miles and mostly built upon. In a constituency of this size the work of building up the membership and retaining the members has to be given to the ward parties. And, as can be seen, right well have the ward parties done their job. I have four ward parties with membership of between 600 and 1,000.

The method used in making members is by first distributing leaflets, membership forms, or duplicated letters, taking one of two roads at one time. The leaflets are followed by a personal canvass two or three days later.

The members made are immediately put on a collector's book ; he visits them as soon as possible and makes arrangements for either a weekly or monthly collection of subs. We never leave a member long after he or she has been made before the collector calls. The collector takes notices of meetings and

all activities and is able to keep the member in full interest with the party.

After the members are made, then the job is to keep them interested or you soon lose them.

To do this, ward party meetings are made as interesting as possible. Some of the wards meet monthly and some fortnightly.

The E.C. of the Divisional Party sends one of its members to visit each ward at least quarterly. This gives the rank-and-file member of each ward party an opportunity to ask questions re divisional work. It also gives the E.C. a chance of putting important questions personally to the ward parties. We have found great benefit from this method ; it has certainly created interest amongst members.

With membership organisation, local elections, and most of propaganda being carried out by local parties (or, as we term them, central parties) and the ward parties, it means that they require a large percentage of membership contributions. From my point of view they do need too much ; the contributions are divided 30 per cent. to divisional party and 70 per cent. to central party and ward parties.

As our industrial affiliations are very small, the divisional party finances are never flourishing. But they are increasing and we hope that by the end of 1938 to have over 10,000 members, and should then be much better off financially.

We have been particularly successful in making members in the newly-developed areas. We canvass these as soon as the houses are occupied and by this means make the Labour Party the first organisation to function in the area.

By this means we also get hold of the best workers before they have their time fully occupied with social clubs, etc. We are not satisfied with our membership, and we shall carry on making members, for with each lot of new members we make we find new workers. We find these very useful in canvassing for further members.

I am convinced that once a membership campaign is started with house-to-house canvass it is like a snowball—you gather members, but, more important, you gather *workers*.

The Executive Committee of the Divisional Party takes a real interest in the membership campaign and does all it can to enthuse the ward parties, because we are convinced that this is the only way to Socialism, our only aim.

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# THE GREAT CAMPAIGN

## PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS

### A CORPORATE LEAD BY THE AGENTS

By HAROLD CROFT

The Immediate Programme and the mass advertisement which is to flow around it, will make splendid and picturesque publicity in the new campaign.

The Programme itself as something practical, something to be achieved, will focus for the Movement an aim and purpose which will unite all Parties and members in a new zest for appeal to the people.

The sale of the new Programme in its popular form has been phenomenal and is a witness of the great interest which it is arousing.

Power has to be got for the Programme. That power has got to be adequate enough to sustain a Labour Government in carrying through the Programme.

The one thing which is power is a "Socialist consciousness," substantial and widespread enough to be a mandate for a Government.

It is a present objective of the great campaign to add a new million of voting support in the year.

This brings us to the psychological basis of the campaigning, the creation of new power for Labour.

The Movement has built up its present millions of support by the fervent projection of the Social Idea to the people.

The Socialist idea is the greatest regenerative idea in the world.

It comes as an illumination in the mind, it is dynamic and moves individuals to social purpose.

The Socialist idea is supra-ordinary; inspired by it men and women will crusade.

In the depressed areas there are sad men and women who dare not hope for themselves, who hardly dare put faith in a promised Programme, but who would tighten belts and would glory in working for and proclaiming the evangel of Socialism. We touch the deepest alchemy of the human spirit in this quality of men and women.

So the Movement has got to bring to this new campaign a new emphasis and a new assertiveness of its Socialist belief.

The challenge of the Socialist idea has got to go into the homes of non-Socialists. It is the repetition and repetition of the challenge which will overcome prejudices and convert people to our cause.

Analyse the elements of a simple exposition. Suppose a leaflet had a bold screeed, SOCIALISM IS SANITY. That at once is a shock and a challenge to a non-Socialist mind, but as part of the approach to that non-Socialist mind suppose that underneath is another line, reading Each for All, All for Each. This latter phrase is of a common mintage; it has passed into all minds! perhaps as a far away aspiration, but here it becomes linked with Socialism. It induces some reflections. The impact again and again and again of such challenges linked with a familiar phrase would draw minds to the social idea. Such is a technique of the psychology of appeal to the mind.

In any block of 1,000 non-Socialist homes at this present moment there are many minds which, unknown to themselves, have lost old prejudices, are nascent for changes of ideas; these would be the first fruits of intensive culture. Remember that most of the 8,500,000 supporters of Labour were Liberals and Tories in past years. They became converts to the unfamiliar ideas of Socialism.

In each constituency there must be on the average a nucleus of 1,800 new voting supporters to make up the new million.

Once the Socialist idea illumines the mind, that mind becomes aware of a social purpose in life. The acceptance of the practical measures of the Programme logically follows and the proposals have a fascination as the outlines for a new civilisation.

The Socialist idea makes the social consciousness which is power. It is the stuff out of which a new civilisation is to be created.

What is it that has held the Agents to their strenuous toiling service, often insecure and heartbreaking? It has been an inward light of Socialism.

A young woman of thirty said to me recently, "You older men and women have worked under inspiration in the Movement; we of my generation have not known what it is to work under inspiration."

I felt that was a challenge to us all to reinvolve that spirit which made us once go out to be fools for Socialism in the face of scoffing crowds.

The Agents came into the Movement under the glow and inspiration of Socialism. The heavy work of recent years has dimmed the outward show of ardour though the flame burns white within.

This new campaign now brings the hour and the opportunity to manifest in flaming purpose all the fervent faith of the mind, not singly, but as the whole body of Agents.

The hundred and twenty-six Agents of the Movement can be a new and fine corporate leadership in this campaign.

There has been talk from time to time of a sort of incorporation of the Agents' Union. Now in the name of Socialism, the Agents can become spiritually incorporated as the strongest body of men and women existent in the Movement, for Socialism.

In their territory of one hundred and twenty-six constituencies, they can move their Parties to shake every village and every town with the evangel of Socialism and advocacy of the Programme.

At the Agents' Group meetings a new *elan*, a freshness, a vigour will suffuse their gatherings. They will become Staff meetings of a new adventuring, of new and greater achievements.

In such new corporate association of the Agents, not only will the devastating sense of isolation disappear, but each individual will feel stronger, a new psychosis of success will warm the hearts of the despondent. Success will come, the Parties will get stronger, the support will mount up. There will be a growing sense of more security and some of that ease of mind which will nourish creative effort.

Visibly that spirit of Each for All and All for Each will permeate the union of Agents in this great work.

P.S.—I make no apology for writing these things. To my mind they are first things said first. If the Editor wishes, I will write of some technical matters relating to the campaign next month.

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### ADDITIONAL CANDIDATURES ENDORSED BY N.E.C. 25th MAY, 1937

MIDD.: Brentford and Chiswick.—Mr. G. H. R. Rogers, 11, Brook Avenue, Wembley, Middx.

SURREY: Epsom.—Mr. C. Hackforth-Jones, Arkley House, Barnet, Herts.

ANGLESEY.—Mr. H. Jones, Headfryn, Edmund St., Holyhead, Anglesey.

### ADDITIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CANDIDATE

LANCS.: Manchester, Hulme.—Mr. G. W. Dillon, "Lynden," Baxter Rd., Sale, Cheshire.

# How MUCH do you know?

?

?

1. What are the functions of an Election Agent in relation to nomination?
2. What goods, if any, can a candidate order at an election, and what expenses, if any, may he legally incur?
3. What procedure should be taken to remedy an unsatisfactory distribution or insufficient number of polling stations?
4. In what way was women's eligibility to enter the House of Commons established?
5. Are any members of the British House of Commons elected by Proportional Representation? If so, how did this come about?

**CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?**

**STUDY YOUR ANSWERS**

then turn to page 110

# BEFORE

## THE GENERAL ELECTION

By J. W. FRENCH, Clay Cross

If every Party Branch made use of the advice given in the "Labour Organiser" in times past, many of their organisation problems would be solved.

Unfortunately, organisation is something which has to be done as well as spoken of, and is not a one-man job. Successful organisation can only be achieved by team-work.

Between now and the General Election much needs to be done if we are to attain the success so much desired.

To ensure this a beginning must be made immediately. The National Executive is paving the way by a series of regional conferences, which are intended to enable every responsible Party member to become fully conversant with the import of the Party's "planned programme."

The writer was the author of the resolution in regard to "planning" accepted by the Leicester Conference. For years we had talked about Party organisation and programmes, but it was not until 1931 that programme planning became so prominent. Six years have elapsed and it is not yet complete. The international aspect has yet to be done.

The Party programme, nevertheless, provides an important tool if handled properly. It will help Party members to augment their Branch membership. It is a tool and a commodity combined. A commodity to take on to the village green, the market square, and from door-to-door in town or hamlet, in the quest for members. And members are persons who may be depended upon to vote Labour at Local Government as well as Parliamentary Elections, and what is just as important, persons who will ensure the votes of their many friends being exercised in the way we would like them to be used.

Our first job is to enrol those we know to be Labour voters, and to guide the youthful ones into our poli-

tical party. There is no second job. All this must be done concurrently.

Why are not all Labour voters members of the Party? The only reason they are not is because the average political-voter thinks more of Party programme than about Branch organisation. They still have to be convinced of the need for UNITY — a word we have heard used so much lately. The majority of them have still to be approached in the right way. There are scores of Party officers who believe that an invitation at the close of a meeting is sufficient to attract members.

If we are to enrol the Labour-voter as a Party member he or she must be visited regularly. A fool-proof system like the stamp method of acknowledgment of subscriptions, plus the use of the admirable book supplied by the "L.O.," enables collectors to be appointed for streets or areas, without undue risk of public denunciation ever arising, providing the Financial Secretary possesses some capability in regard to elementary book-keeping.

An active Literature Secretary will take special interest in seeing the collectors have an up-to-date stock of literature. The propaganda committee will be using every endeavour to create an enthusiastic thirst for a fuller knowledge of what Socialism is. The active Party members in committee will concentrate upon co-ordinating all this activity and extending its radius, rather than talking about mythical "united fronts." They will, most certainly, discuss the merits of the Party Programme, and convene special divisional conferences upon this subject, as well as similar conferences upon Local Government questions.

Members of the Labour Groups of Local Government authorities should be invited to such conferences, for it does not follow that such individuals acquire a full knowledge of their administrative duties by depending

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entirely upon the advice given by the permanent officials, although it should be appreciated there are many such officials who can be, and are, very helpful. It is, however, very important to remember that Local Government activity, if in the wrong direction, can be used as an excuse by the electorate as a reason for non-membership.

A special committee selected from the Divisional Executive and Labour Group members, could investigate the existing powers of local authorities. It

may be that, sooner or later, the National Executive will have an opportunity of investigating the possibilities of issuing handbooks upon the powers available under local government subjects like "Housing," and so on.

Let us then proceed at once so that we may be assured of a "Victory for Socialism," giving the secretary or agent every opportunity of perfecting the election machinery he wishes to put in motion when the occasion demands it.

## THE CHELTENHAM BY-ELECTION

### NOVEL POINTS

Two or three unusual features in the Cheltenham By-election are of interest to our readers.

In the first place the returning officer, i.e., the Mayor, is actually one of the candidates. Those of our readers who may think that this is a transgression of the law, or that it ought to be, should take note of Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1918.

By the above Act it is provided "that a returning officer at a Parliamentary Election shall not, if all his duties are discharged by the Acting Returning Officer, be disqualified, by reason of being Returning Officer, for being a candidate at the election."

So that's that.

More extraordinary still, the Mayor nominated his wife as election agent, and thereby hangs a tale. We believe it is the first time in history that a Mayoress has acted as election agent. The Editor has her authority, however, for saying that she is not taking any fee!

A third interesting fact is that an ex-member of the Labour Party and a prominent local Trades Unionist, had been nominated by the Mayor as his election agent. The appointment had apparently been notified to the Acting Returning Officer prior to nominations. This, of course, was in perfect accord with the law, for the appointment of an election agent does not necessarily stand over until a candidate becomes nominated.

Apparently the advent of a Labour Candidate caused this election agent

to think twice, and his appointment was therefore revoked. It is probably the first time in the history of elections that the appointment of three election agents has been officially published, along with the public notice of a revocation.

Readers who may not be aware of the latter procedure should take note that a candidate in a Parliamentary election can revoke his agent's appointment, and indeed this is his only remedy against certain contingencies. When an agent's appointment is revoked, it must be notified to the returning officer, or the Acting Returning Officer, as the case may be, and the latter must duly publish same.

Perhaps a further item of interest is that the Editor of this journal is acting as election agent to the Labour Candidate—a sufficient reason for a few days' delay in the publication of this number.

## EXETER

Labour history is being made in Exeter by the publication of what, we believe, is the first Labour News Sheet in the Cathedral City.

The first issue is an ambitious eight-page of which 5,000 impressions were distributed. Progress in other directions has been made in Exeter, and we hope its new propaganda organ will live long and accomplish much.

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

See Page 106

## I. THE FUNCTIONS OF AN AGENT AT NOMINATIONS

*Answer 1.* Obviously the first function of an agent in reference to nominations is to ensure that his candidate is correctly nominated.

The strictest accuracy is demanded in a nomination form, and there are many pitfalls. Whether one's candidate is seeking Parliamentary honours or only fighting a Local Government election, it behoves whoever is responsible for nominations to take especial care and both to read and understand the law concerning nominations. Seats have been lost through the rejection of nomination papers, and the unlucky candidate who falls at the post rarely rises again to run another time. Ridicule kills.

In a Parliamentary election the election agent must ensure not only accurate and valid papers, but he must take care that cash in the sum of £150 is ready for payment to the returning officer. He may hand over this deposit, although unless he is himself a nominator he must not hand in the nomination papers.

The election agent who can validly nominate is at an advantage over another election agent, for every proposer may attend at nominations.

Failing a right to be present in this way the election agent has no status unless he be specially appointed as the candidate's "one other person" at these

proceedings. Appointment as election agent does not of itself carry appointment as the "one other person" allowed to accompany the candidate.

At Parliamentary elections the election agent may give notice to the returning officer of his desire for the extension of polling hours. The fact that an agent may give notice to the returning officer "during the nomination time" (Extension of Polling Hours Act, 1913) seems to contradict the terms of the Ballot Act rules (Rule VIII.) which exclude any other person from attendance at nominations unless appointed specially for that purpose by the candidate. However, one cannot attempt to reconcile the piecemeal legislation under which elections are conducted at present.

In practice an election agent is frequently asked by the returning officer prior to nominations to supply a specimen nomination paper for the purpose of guiding the returning officer in prior printing of the ballot papers, notices, etc. Though not a legal function this is one of the functions relating to nomination which agents fulfil.

In Local Government elections there are no election agents as such, but the person who calls himself election agent, or who acts in such capacity, must in addition to producing valid nomination papers see that the candidate's consent is obtained.

The procedure in Local Government elections is now robbed of that relic of the hustings, i.e., "nominations." There is no attendance before the returning officer. Opponents have not the same possibility of meeting as in Parliamentary procedure, and the customary compliments, or the reverse, are absent. When the "election agent" has handed in the nomination papers his functions in relation thereto are ended, unless perhaps it be to see that the returning officer does actually publish the nominations sent in.

Do ALL the officers  
of your Party get  
the "L.O."?



IF NOT - WHY NOT?

## 2. WHAT EXPENSES MAY A CANDIDATE INCUR?

*Answer 2.* The law on this question is, we believe, imperfectly understood. The only expenses which a candidate may pay without complication or qualification are his own personal expenses, though this is not to say that no other expenses may be incurred by him.

What are personal expenses has never been decided in set terms or by definition.

The term must be interpreted in a reasonable and commonsense spirit, and such expenses certainly would include the candidate's cost of living during the election, and his travelling expenses to and from the constituency. It would also, we think, include reasonable similar expenses in respect of the candidate's family, and might be extended to include the expenses of his personal guests.

The term certainly would not include the expenses of speakers or workers during the election, except such as may be actually and properly incurred for the guests of the candidate.

Each set of circumstances are to be judged separately and a candidate's normal mode of life and standard of living might be so applied to the question that while one candidate who normally would entertain on a generous scale might entertain his friends, another and poorer candidate who would not normally do any such thing would not regard such expenses as proper rather than election expenses.

While there are certain other expenses which a candidate may himself incur, there is a stipulation governing same which in practice limits his spending power. All election expenses other than the personal expenses must be paid through an election agent, and indeed any personal expenses exceeding £100 must also be paid.

A candidate of course may be his own election agent which disposes of the question, and in case of difficulty may change his election agent, but the limitation mentioned generally operates to prevent unwise spending,

for if the candidate begins to incur expenses without the authority of the election agent, both may suffer as a result of the expenses exceeding the limit, or more likely as a result of the expenses exceeding the money available.

Only the election agent, or a sub-agent, has power to appoint Personation Agents, Clerks and Messengers, and to hire Committee Rooms. Only the election agent may appoint sub-agents.

In regard to all other contracts, such as orders for printing, advertising and the various items to which the term miscellaneous applies, such contracts are only enforceable against the candidate if the contract is made by the candidate himself, or by his election agent, either by himself or by his sub-agent.

It is not at all clear, however, that the candidate has power to incur petty expenses for stationery, postage and telegrams unless as his own personal expenses. Section 31 (3) of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, stipulates that a person incurring such expenses must be authorised in writing by the election agent, and in this minor direction alone does any limit appear to be placed upon the candidate.



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### 3. HOW TO GET MORE POLLING STATIONS

*Answer 3.* Polling districts and polling places are sometimes confused in the minds of workers. A polling district is a geographical unit of a more or less permanent nature, and it is the duty of the appropriate council to divide a constituency into polling districts, and to appoint polling places in those districts "in such manner as to give all electors . . . such reasonable facilities for voting, as are practicable in the circumstances."

The term polling place refers to a particular building. The district itself is distinguished by a separate letter of the alphabet, and the letter of the polling district is part and parcel of an electors' register number. There is no special letter for a polling place. Incidentally one polling place may have several "polling stations."

Though this may all be clear, the opportunities for discontent over the provision of sufficient facilities for voting are just boundless. In recent years the migration of population into new districts and the growth of mushroom communities has accentuated the problem. The surprising thing is that there has not been more discontent evidenced, and this one must put down to a growing lack of interest in matters political.

The electors' remedy for insufficient polling facilities is laid down by the Representation of the People Act, 1918, Section 31, Sub-section 2. By this a local authority, or not less than thirty electors, are permitted to make a representation to the Home Secretary that the polling districts or polling places do not meet the reasonable requirements of the electors.

The Home Secretary may direct the Council concerned to make such alterations as he thinks necessary, and if the Council does not act upon his instruction the Home Secretary has the power to himself make the necessary alterations.

By local authority is meant County Council, Borough Council or Urban or Rural District or Parish Council, or in the case of a Parish without a Council, the Parish Meeting.

Though it will be seen that thirty electors may petition the Home Office, we believe that where practicable the

better course, and the one most likely to succeed, is to move through one of the Councils concerned. In practice it is desirable for the movers in this matter to show *what* facilities might be used in supplement of the existing ones.

It must be remembered that a poll may not be taken at an hotel, public house or other licensing premises, nor in any room directly connecting therewith, unless the consent of all the candidates is given. It is inadvisable to specify such places in one's suggestions, and normally the whole matter is one in which co-operation with one's political opponents is both desirable and profitable.

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## 4. HOW WOMEN SECURED THE RIGHT TO SIT IN PARLIAMENT

*Answer 4.* The endowment of women with the vote in this country is not, as is sometimes erroneously supposed, synonymous with women's eligibility for Parliament.

The exclusion of women from the House of Commons never, we believe, had statute force, but the exclusion appeared to have been just as much absolute as the exclusion of minors which had the force of statute.

The Suffrage agitation of pre-war days seemed to concentrate upon votes for women to the overshadowing of women's rights (or men's right for that matter) to elect a woman to Parliament, or a woman's right to sit therein.

This fact was peculiarly brought home to the Editor of the "Labour Organiser" soon after the passing of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1918, which Act, of course, will be marched in vain to find any reference to women's eligibility for Parliament. At that time the Editor was Chairman of the Stourbridge Divisional Labour Party, and in that capacity sought a Parliamentary candidate.

There had been some talk of the right of women to enter the House of Commons, and one or two women, notably Miss Mary MacArthur, had made known their intentions to fight this issue.

The Editor approached Miss MacArthur and secured her assent to become a Parliamentary candidate and gave her assurance that if selected by the Divisional Party she would seek to secure nomination, and if elected fight for her right to take the oath in Parliament in the same way as a man. As a matter of fact, Miss MacArthur was elected, after much opposition, under these very circumstances.

It was thought that the Returning Officer would have no right to refuse her nomination—certainly, no statutory right.

Just prior to the dissolution of the 1918 Parliament the Government moved to the coming storm. By that time several women candidates had been elected, and the Government stimulated by rushing through Parlia-

ment a one-clause Bill which effected a great constitutional change.

This Act, the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918, received the Royal assent on 21st November, nine months after the passing of the major Act.

It should be noted that Miss MacArthur was not the first woman candidate for the British Parliament, an Irish woman candidature having been announced a few months previously. Miss MacArthur was, however, the first woman candidate in Great Britain.

Regarding the franchise itself the Representation of the People Act, 1918, conferred a very limited franchise on women, and women under 30 years of age were excluded altogether. In these days it is hard to understand the reasoning of our war-time legislators who had neither physiological, pathological, psychological or logical reason for this limitation.

Whether or no because the suffrage agitation had blown itself out during its pre-war agitation or because some of its leaders had now become quite approved citizens of society, is not altogether clear, but certain it is that no great agitation resulted to rid women of the stigma that they were incapable of registering the vote until they had attained 30 years of age. Just as much because it was thought political advantage was to be gained, as out of a sense of propriety or justice, Mr. Baldwin's Government of 1928 swept away the illogical differences which existed and they enacted the Equal Franchise Act.

From that day men and women have been equal as regards franchise, but we still await the millennium that was promised us when women got the vote. Perhaps they were kept waiting too long.

**The L.O. wants  
1,000 NEW READERS**  
*Will you help?*

## 5. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN BRITISH ELECTIONS

*Answer 5.* A considerable section of our readers are probably unaware of the great battle over Proportional Representation which took place when the Representation of the People Act, 1918, was before Parliament, and perhaps some few are unaware of the fact that the elections for certain University Constituencies are taken on the principle of the transferable vote.

Section 20 of the Act provides that "at a contested election for a University Constituency, where there are two or more members to be elected, any election of the full number of members shall be according to the principle of Proportional Representation, each elector having one transferable vote as defined by this Act."

Section 41 (6) of the Act defines the expression "transferable vote" as (a) capable of being given so as to indicate the voters' preference for the candidates in order, and (b) capable of being transferred to the next choice when the vote is not required to give prior choice the necessary quota of votes, or, when, owing to the deficiency in the number of votes given for a prior choice, that choice is eliminated from the list of candidates.

All of which sounds very complicated to the lay mind, but the Act (Section 23) provided for regulations under Orders in Council which simplify the matter. These Statutory Rules and Orders must be examined if one seeks further light on the method of taking the vote.

There are three Statutory Rules and Orders governing the matter, i.e., No 1348 of 1918; No. 1349 (1928); No 2002 (1926).

The Representation of the People Act, 1918, on its enactment contained a sub-section under which P.R. might have been applied to one hundred selected seats chosen from both Boroughs and County Divisions. No Government, however, ever found courage or desire to act upon the provisions in the section. It was laid down that Commissioners were to prepare a scheme applying to these constituencies, which scheme should be submitted for the approval of Parliament. As a result of the sub-section

becoming inoperative, its repeal was effected by the Statute Law Revision Act, 1927.

The great fight above referred to took place almost exactly twenty years ago, and was virtually a conflict between the two Houses of Parliament. The House of Commons had its own notions concerning the method of voting, and so had the Lords.

The Bill as introduced proposed to experiment with P.R. in the larger divided boroughs and in London. It was also proposed to introduce the alternative vote in single-Membered constituencies.

The ding-dong battle over this question is too long to recount here. The battle was waged internally both in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons, and also as between the two Houses. Broadly speaking the Lords stood for Proportional Representation and the Commons for the Alternative Vote.

In the end compromise was proposed, and forced through Parliament, under the threat of losing the Bill altogether, and so the Act passed. No Party has for twenty years cared to revive the controversy, and no movement has attempted to tinker with the method of voting in Local Government Elections.

### Questions Answered Here

The Editor invites readers to send in queries of general interest on organisational and technical matters. Queries for which a reply is desired the same month, should reach us by 6th of the month.

## A LABOUR BEST SELLER

When a political Party publication becomes a "best seller," it obviously is something out of the ordinary.

"Labour's Immediate Programme" is something out of the ordinary—it sets out what a Labour Government with Power will do, and as the alternative to the present Government *will* be a Labour Government, the public are interested in knowing the changes in policy and action that will result from the change in Government.

If every one of the more than 8 million men and women who voted Labour at the last General Election read "Labour's Immediate Programme" pamphlet, which costs only one penny, we shall have that number of active missionaries for Socialism and Power.

**Has your Party got supplies ?**

**Have you had YOUR Copy ?**

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**and Help to Get Power for**

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Programme of Action**



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# LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY

(Recording all alterations since issue of last Annual Report.)

## KEY TO INDEX LETTERS REPRESENTING LABOUR PARTY ORGANISING DISTRICTS.

A	North-Eastern District	F	South-Western District
B	North-Western District	G	Eastern District
C	Midlands District	H	Wales
D	Southern and Home Counties District	J	Scotland
E	London District	K	Universities

## KEY TO NATURE OF CONSTITUENCY

(CD)	County Divisions	(DB)	Divisional Boroughs
(SB)	Single-membered Boroughs	(BD)	Borough Divisions
(DMB)	Double-membered Boroughs	(U)	Universities

## CORRECTIONS RECORDED SINCE LAST L.P. ANNUAL REPORT

Constituency Numbers : 2, 5, 10, 12, 25, 31, 43, 48, 50, 51, 52, 57, 58, 62, 65, 67, 84, 85/88, 89, 91, 92, 103, 106, 107, 109, 110, 113, 115, 116, 117, 121, 125, 128, 131, 139, 143, 150, 153, 159, 160, 164, 174, 179, 181, 184, 202, 206, 207, 208, 211, 218, 220, 221, 226/27, 227, 228/31, 235, 239/41, 242, 243, 244, 246/9, 246, 258/9, 270/72, 275, 278, 279/80, 280, 283, 285, 290, 291, 299, 303, 313, 314, 317, 319, 332, 334, 337, 338, 340, 354, 366, 370, 373, 381, 389, 390, 393, 395, 397, 401, 411, 420, 427/30, 428, 435, 437/8, 450, 452, 453, 463, 466, 470, 472, 473, 477, 487, 498, 499, 510/11, 510, 511, 518, 523, 524, 527, 528, 540, 542, 548, 551, 552, 554, 558, 653, 570, A74, G85 88, G88, G126, D140, B147, B172, C211, E232, E242/42, E244, E245, E250, E251, E258/9, D283, A313, G365, A456, H478, H499, J551, J573, J576.

## CORRECTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

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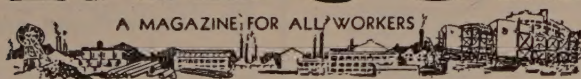
No.	tion	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
D1	CD	Bedford D.L.P.	Mr. W. M. KEMPSTER, J.P., 36, Kingsley Rd., Bedford.
B31	SB	Carlisle D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. KITCHEN, Carlisle D.L.P., Trades Hall, Scotch St., Carlisle, Cumberland.
F54	CD	Torquay D.L.P.	Mr. G. BRINHAM, 38, Cumbers Rd., Brixham, Devon.
F57	CD	N. Dorset D.L.P.	Mrs. C. SIMMS, Tyndall, Long St., Sherborne, N. Dorset.
A61	SB	Gateshead L.P. & T.C.	Mr. J. A. HUTCHISON, Labour Hall, 7, Walker Terrace, Gateshead.
C106	CD	Stroud D.L.P.	Mr. H. F. FORBES, Far Hill, Cainscross Rd., Stroud, Glos.
B149	DMB	Bolton D.L.P.	Mr. E. CLARKE, Room 6, Spinners' Hall, St. George's Rd., Bolton, Lancs.
G216	CD	Grantham D.L.P.	Mr. M. W. MOORE, "Homleigh," Claypole, Newark, Notts.
E232	SB	Chelsea L.P. & T.C.	Miss B. CURTIS BROWN, 7, Tadema Rd., London, S.W.10.
E237	BD	Fulham West D.L.P.	Mr. A. C. POWELL, 131, Dawes Rd., Fulham, London, S.W.6.
E252	BD	Brixton D.L.P.	Mr. E. COULSON, 21, Gresham Rd., Stockwell, London, S.W.9.
E255	BD	Norwood D.L.P.	Mr. G. O. ESHER, 35, Lancaster Avenue, London, S.E.27.
E265	BD	St. Pancras S.W. D.L.P.	Mr. STEWART HARRISON, 123, Drummond St. London, N.W.1.
E266	SB	Shoreditch D.L.P.	Ald. J. ABRAHAMS, 20, Oakfield Rd., London, E.5.
E279	BD	Westminster St. George's D.L.P.	Mr. L. A. MAXFIELD, Top Floor, 86, Rochester Row, London, S.W.1.

Index Descrip-

No.	tion	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
85	SB	Hornsey D.L.P.	Mr. S. C. BAINBRIDGE, 9, Ennis Rd., London, N.4.
96	CD	Spelthorne D.L.P.	Mr. T. McDERMOTT, 34, Craven Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex.
02	CD	Norfolk East D.L.P.	Mr. A. V. HILTON, 57, Bethel St., Norwich, Norfolk.
04	CD	Norfolk North D.L.P.	Mr. S. DYBLE, 4, Bristol Rd., Melton Constable, Norfolk.
64	SB	Ipswich D.L.P.	Mr. R. RATCLIFFE, 33, Silent St., Ipswich, Suffolk.
81	CD	Reigate D.L.P.	Mr. W. ALBURY, Applegarth, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey.
83	SB	Hastings D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. SPEER, 57, Stonefield Rd., Hastings.
93	BD	Edgbaston D.L.P.	Dr. ESTHER M. KILLICK, 36, Wentworth Rd., Harborne, Birmingham, 17.
73	CD	Spen Valley D.L.P.	Mr. G. SHARP, 76, Booth St., Cleckheaton, Yorks.
84	CD	Flintshire D.L.P.	Mr. G. M. JAMES, 23, Glynne St., Connahs Quay, Chester.
90/91	DB	Rhondda D.L.P.	Mr. B. HARCOMBE, 156, Kenry St., Tonypandy, Rhondda, Glam.
97	CD	Llandaff & Barry D.L.P.	SECRETARY, c/o G. Morris, 3, Llwynfedw Gardens, Birchgrove, Whitchurch, Cardiff.
93	SB	Dumbarton & Clydebank D.L.P.	Mr. ANDREW FLEMING, 86, Dumbarton Rd., Clydebank, Glasgow.
93	CD	Galloway D.L.P.	Coun. T. McGUFFIE, 1, Fountainblue Terrace, Wigtown.
7/51	DB	Glasgow Borough L.P.	The SECRETARY, Glasgow Borough Labour Party, 95, Bath St., Glasgow.
4	BD	Kelvingrove D.L.P.	Mr. J. L. WILLIAMS, 6, Cecil St., Glasgow, W.2.

# LABOUR

A MAGAZINE FOR ALL WORKERS



## JUNE

E. SHINWELL, M.P., on  
The Labour Party: Its Critics.

W. J. CHAMBERLAIN on  
Baldwin—The Unsolved Enigma.

PROFESSOR G. E. G. CATLIN on  
The Rule of Nine Old Men.

H. R. S. VASEAU on  
Can Germany Afford to Rearm?

Other articles by R. B. Suthers, Arthur Woodburn, Bjarne Braatoy,  
P. J. Schmidt, E. P. Harries and Herbert Tracey.

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# GET ON WITH IT

By A. ROSE (LABOUR AGENT  
SOUTHAMPTON)

"Comrade." Was ever a word so misused as it is by some of our friends in the Labour movement? And the less they act like comrades, as a rule, the more frequently they use the term.

I have just been listening to one at a meeting in an area where the obvious task lay with the large non-Labour vote. He spoke at great length and much volume. A thoroughly anti-Labour speech—destructively critical of both the Labour Governments, the leaders, the National E.C. and Head Office.

This gentleman seemed to view the latter as a sort of huge octopus which constantly ejects a poisonous fluid to stultify the bounding energy of members, and with a heavy backward pull sucks up pound notes, and even copers, from the pockets of Local Parties.

I ventured, rather timidly, to enquire the size of his Party. *They were practically "non est."* But this was due to very great local difficulties. The people in his area were peculiar people who could not be organised for very special reasons, etc., etc.

I should not be surprised that if we probed a little beneath the surface, we should find that our complaining comrade felt he ought to be made a J.P. or something. But there he was, admitting that he was incapable of building up a small Local Party, and at the same time condemning the leaders and national officials because they were not doing a really gigantic task to his satisfaction.

If the great campaign for Power is to be a success, we must have supreme confidence in ourselves and our Cause. How *can* we claim the confidence of 15,000,000 voters if we are not confident of ourselves?

These carping critics and small bodies claiming to be for unity, or constitutional change, etc., all help to destroy our confidence.

Even if a "United Front" were brought about, and the constitution so changed as to make Ben Greene turn pink with joy, the problem facing every Local Party would be the same, as it is to-day—man-power and money.

And in nearly every constituency both these things are there for the

asking. Thousands are ready to come into our ranks and bring at least a lid. a week with them.

Surely we who claim to be able to solve national and international problems are not to be baffled by a relatively simple problem of organisation, i.e. how to enrol willing recruits and collect their contributions!

It is probably true to say that in the great majority of constituencies membership could easily be doubled at least, and the financial burden greatly eased. Most of us, therefore, are not in a position to be too critical of leaders and officials, for we are neglecting our own task that lies right beneath our hand.

If "Labour's Immediate Programme" is ever to find its way to the statute book, it will need not only increased voters, but increased organisation strength in the constituencies as well. And that means membership and money.

Before we get embroiled in the campaign, let us prepare for its results.

Admitting that without an increased membership the campaign must fail, let every Party call an immediate meeting to set up machinery to receive the new members. Let every Local Party, every Ward Committee and Women's Section, be asked to appoint one member whose sole work shall be the organisation of enrolment of members and collecting subscriptions. And let us promise that that member shall not be asked to do other Party work.

All this may appear difficult where we are short-handed, but remember that membership and money are first essentials. Ask one of the new members to do that other job instead.

I can hear those who have read thus far saying, "Yes, but what about collectors?" Well, what about them? They will not be easy to get. But neither will it be easy to get our Programme through the House.

If membership and contributions are essential to success, collectors hold a key position of vital importance. That there are hundreds, and probably thousands, of collectors up and down the country, shows that they can be got.

Let us not be faint-hearted, but

boldly ask both present and new members to undertake this vital work without which we cannot succeed. The setting up of membership machinery now will create much-needed interest in the matter, help to solve the collector problem, and go half-way to meet the stream of new members.

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tioned in the advertisement to be  
found on another page, but it is neces-  
sary to write quickly.

## How Durham Leads

We have before us a printed state-  
ment issued by the Durham County  
Federation of D.L.P.'s showing the  
position of Labour representation in  
the County as at May, 1937.

It is a wonderful record. In Parlia-  
ment every Division is held for Labour  
—eleven of them. On the County  
Council there are sixty-three Labour  
Councillors to twenty-five of the others,  
or, including the Aldermen, eighty-  
eight Labour representatives to twenty-  
nine others.

In the Boroughs, Labour does not  
fare so well, for in Durham, Hartle-  
pool, Jarrow and Stockton, there are  
anti-Labour majorities. Thus in Dur-  
ham it is the Counties which plump  
for Labour and the towns which har-  
bour reaction—quite a reversal of the  
usual order of things.

In the Rural District Councils,  
Labour returns 155 Councillors to 118  
of the others, and it controls six Coun-  
cils out of ten. In the Urban District  
Councils Labour returns 283 represen-  
tatives to 157 of all the others, and it  
controls 16 Councils out of 21.

Among the Parish Councils, Labour  
has 513 seats to 310 of all the others,  
and it controls most of these Councils.

Our friend, Ald. J. W. Foster, the  
Secretary of this leading Federation,  
must be indeed proud of his diocese.  
The Movement has reason to be proud  
of Durham.

## Propaganda by Films

Films are the most modern form of  
propaganda, and Labour has thirsted  
for this sort of thing for years.  
Nevertheless, one or two abortive  
attempts have been made to supply  
our Movement. The need has  
remained unsatisfied until it almost  
looked as if our opponents were going  
permanently to be in possession of the  
best resources in that field.

International Sound Films have now  
come to the rescue. We believe the  
proposals of this sympathetic firm will  
meet with a welcome and ready  
response both in the Labour and Co-  
operative political Parties.

It is no impracticable proposition  
which is here brought to the notice of  
local organisations. International  
Sound Films provide all the films,  
equipment, operator and advertising  
material at a low inclusive figure. By

(Continued at foot of previous column)

# SOME STANDING ORDERS

## A Sample from Loughborough

(1) The President shall take the chair at . . . .

(2) All Delegates shall sign the Attendance Register upon entering the room.

(3) The business of the Party shall be conducted in the following manner:

(a) Minutes of the previous meeting shall be read and when accepted as correct, shall be signed by the Chairman.

(b) Apologies.

(c) Reports of Special Committees (if any).

(d) Reports of standing Sub-Committees.

(e) At Divisional Management Committee meetings the reading of the previous Executive Committee Minutes shall be taken as an Executive Committee Report.

(f) Notices of Motion for the following meeting, which must have been in the hands of the Secretary at least three days before the meeting.

Such Notices of Motion shall be sent in by Affiliated Organisations or tabled by the Executive Committee or other Bodies appointing Delegates to the General Management Committee. A Notice of Motion tabled by an individual Delegate without the written authority of his (or her) Organisation, shall not be accepted.

(g) Discussions on Motions, of which notice has been previously given.

(h) Correspondence shall be read, discussed and necessary action taken.

(i) Reports (if any) of Representatives on Public Bodies.

(4) Any Delegate desiring to speak must rise and address the Chairman; no interruption being allowed except on points of order or information.

(5) No Delegate shall be allowed to speak more than once on any subject, except the Mover of the original Resolution; unless to ask or answer a question, or to a point of order.

(6) The Mover of a Motion or Amendment shall be allowed FIVE minutes. Seconders and succeeding speakers THREE minutes. No second amendment shall be permitted until the previous one has been disposed of. The Mover of the Motion, having the right to reply, shall close the discussion and the Chairman shall then proceed to take the vote.

(7) All questions before the meeting shall be determined by a show of hands unless a Ballot Vote be demanded; in which case Tellers shall be appointed to count the votes, and give the numbers to the Chairman, who shall declare the result to the Meeting.

(8) No Affiliated Society or Section of the Party having submitted a Motion or Resolution, to the Party, which is duly discussed and voted upon, shall be allowed to bring same or a similar Motion before the Party without an interval of at least six months.

(9) Whenever the Chairman rises during a debate or when a question or point of order is raised, any Delegate then speaking or offering to speak must immediately resume his (or her) seat.

(10) Any Delegate or Delegates being dissatisfied with the Chairman's conduct of the meeting shall, if he (or she) so desires, move "That the Chairman vacates the Chair," and a two-thirds majority must vote in favour for this to become operative.

(11) A Motion or Resolution must obtain a Seconder before the meeting can accept.

(12) No Minute of a previous meeting shall be rescinded unless Notice of Motion is given at the preceding meeting and the Secretary shall inform the Mover and Seconder of the original Motion, as recorded in the Minute.

(13) At a Divisional Management Committee meeting no business shall be transacted unless a quorum be present consisting of eight delegates.

(14) Any point arising at a meeting not covered by the foregoing Standing Orders, shall be subject to the Chairman's ruling.